

# NEWSLETTER



*"A helping hand for people"*  
**ABCD's NEW PROJECTS:**  
**CRYSTAL PARK REVITALIZATION | O'JAYS PLAZA**



MISSION

The ABCD, Inc. is committed to improving the quality of life of people through Community Economic Development, Energy Conservation, Housing Development and Transportation.



VISION

The ABCD, Inc. strives to become a self-sufficient Community Development Corporation, which utilizes innovative and creative approaches to reduce poverty, to foster self-reliance and to bring about the empowerment of the communities that we serve.

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# WILL DENT CENTER

## FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This building is dedicated to  
**Mr. Will Dent**  
Board of Directors

Ms. Lydia Lee	Board Chair
Mr. Tommie Davenport	Board Vice Chair
Ms. L. Tonia Dickens-Jones	Secretary



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO: **WILL DENT**

## *50 Years of Service*

I thank God who has brought us through it all—the good and the bad, the joy and the pain, the mountains and valleys—always arriving on time when needed.

I thank the long-time supporters, including Stephanie Patrick, Pat Kennard, and board members Ron Young and Jenny Terrell. I am equally thankful for the dedication of staff members Darlene Knott and Vivica Williams who have collectively served more than 65 years.

I thank our past and current funders: the Stark Community Foundation, the United Methodist Church, Area Agency on Aging, 10B, Sisters of Charity Foundation, Hoover and Deuble Foundations, as well as City, County, and State Governments, Stark County Department of Jobs and Family Services, SEEDCO, SARTA and The Finance Fund to name just a few.

For several years we have had exceptional sponsors, many of whom are listed on another page.

I would like to also thank those who took part in our 50th Celebration: our Board Chairperson, Lydia Lee and other Board Members; long-time board member, Jenny Terrell; Phil Stevens, representing the O'Jays; Jocelyn Roper, a longtime colleague; and finally, Keith B. Key, who served as the keynote speaker.

Finally, I am honored that the Board agreed to name the new ABCD Administrative Offices, "The Will Dent Center for Community Economic Development", which serves to remind me of the Black Community Developers Program of the United Methodist Church. It was this program under the leadership of Dr. Negail Riley and Rev John Coleman that provided me with the training and guidance in Community Economic Development. Thanks Negail and John and the entire Black Community Developer's family



Will Dent, President & CEO



# HIGHLIGHTS JUNE–AUGUST

## I. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- ABCD provided support for the Juneteenth Celebration, African American Festival, Football Hall of Fame Parade, Stark County Minority Business Association and Metamor5sis.

## II. COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Crystal Park Project

- Renovations are well underway to the former Rotunda Bank Branch soon to become ABCD's Administrative Headquarters.
- Financial plans are being finalized for the remainder of the project which will include: a vehicle storage and training center; 24 unit apt complex for the elderly with commercial space at the lower level and a restaurant.

## III. HOUSING

- Liberty Lofts construction has started outside of Youngstown. This is a 42 family units complex for the elderly. Financial primarily by LIHTC and the Federal Home Bank AFP program.
- Closing should be within the next 30 days on Roberts station, a 50 unit complex for the elderly at 26th and Roberts and the Pointe at Walker Mill, a 50 unit complex for the Elderly in Boardman.
- Discussions are underway concerning ABCD selling its share of Massillon Homes II to East Akron neighborhood Development Corp. who also serves at the managers.

## IV. TRANSPORTATION

- Hiring a communication specialist
- Received approval of \$80,000 to purchase a 16-passenger van with (2) wheelchair seats and \$96,531 in operating funds to assist with transportation of ADA.
- Canton workforce Transportation continues to expand.



The ABCD, INC

# Thank you to our sponsors

*"A helping hand for people"*

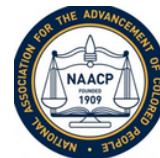
STEPHEN & SONDRRA  
**PERRY**



United Way  
of Greater Stark County



THE GEORGE DUNWOODY  
FOUNDATION



**DONORS**



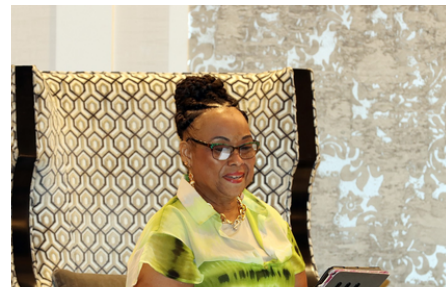
# 50TH ANNIVERSARY

## ABCD, INC. 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA WAS A SUCCESS!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors and community as the outcome of the 50th Anniversary Dinner/Gala has exceeded our expectations. We are thrilled to share that our CEO, Will Dent, along with his wife Bonnie, received a delightful surprise - the announcement that the upcoming ABCD headquarters will bear the name: "The Will Dent Center for Community Economic Development."



STEPHEN PERRY AND DAUGHTER ANDREA WHO IS THE CANTON SAFETY DIRECTOR THE 24 UNIT ELDERLY HOUSING COMPLEX WILL BE NAMED "THE STEPHEN PERRY LOFTS"



REV. DR. JOCELYN ROPER, FORMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPER IN SPRINGFIELD, OH. RETIRED FROM HER POSITION AS A DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE UMC



PAT KENNARD AND MONTY PENDER



THE WILLIAMS SISTERS





**CEO WILL DENT'S FAMILY**



**JOHN CIHON AND WIFE**



**LYDIA LEE-BOARD CHAIR**

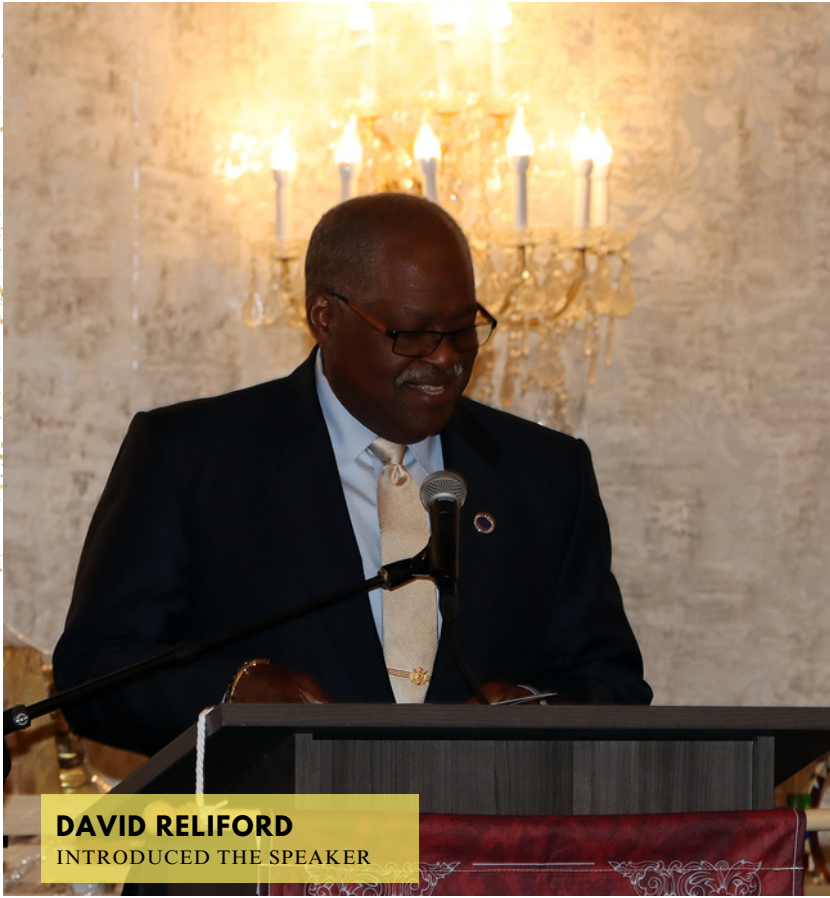


**MEMBERS OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI AND DELTA SIGMA THETA**



**ABCD, INC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**





**DAVID RELIFORD**  
INTRODUCED THE SPEAKER



**KEITH B. KEY**  
KEY NOTE SPEAKER



**AWARD TO THE O'JAYS**



**JENNY TERREL**  
35 YEARS ABCD BOARD MEMBER



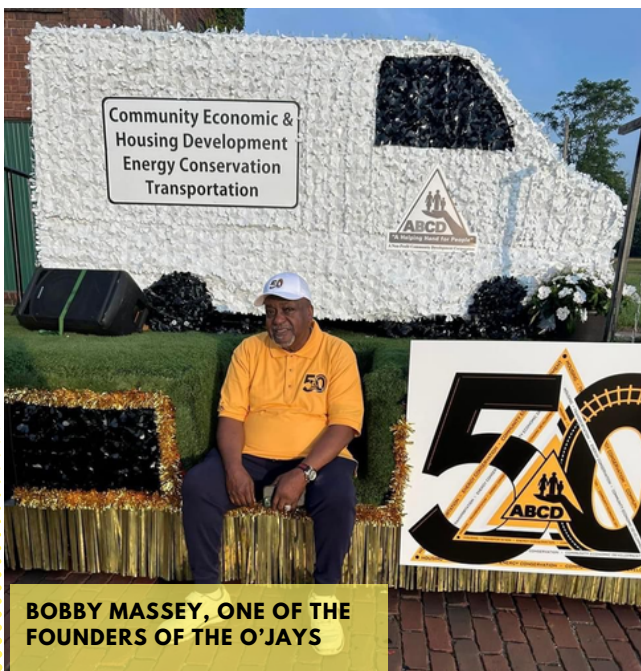




**WILL DENT, ABCD CEO**



**M. WILLIAMS; P. STEVENS; WILL DENT AND LYDIA LEE**



**BOBBY MASSEY, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE O'JAYS**



**PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME PARADE-ABCD, INC**

**LYDIA LEE (AT THE FRONT) AND MARVIN WILLIAMS (AT THE BACK-BROTHER OF THE O'JAYS )**



**MONTY PENDER, ABCD COO**



THE ABCD, INC PARADE

# DID YOU MISS IT?



**WATCH IT NOW:  
PRO FOOTBALL HALL  
OF FAME PARADE**



[WWW.THEABCDINC.COM](http://WWW.THEABCDINC.COM)



(330) 455-6385



1225 Gross Ave NE,  
Canton, OH 44705



# Transportation



## We are hiring!

ABCD, Inc is looking for a Bilingual Spanish/English Communication Specialist. Our goal is to offer the best service to our Hispanic community.

Our transportation program is growing and we appreciate all the trust and support we have received from the community

### For more information contact:

Homaundré A. Pender  
Chief Operating Officer  
The ABCD, Inc.  
homaundre.pender@theabcdinc.com

## Spotlight: Ashley Herring

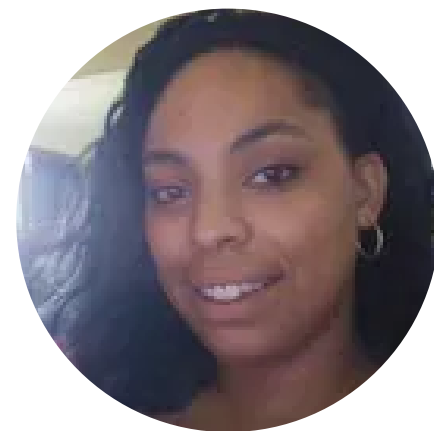
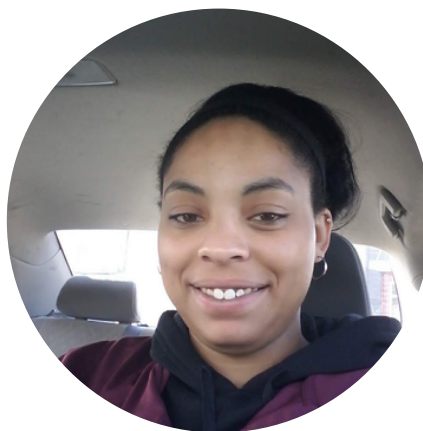
Our Transportation manager is Ashley Herring, who began her journey with ABCD, Inc. as a driver in 2015. She stood out and earned the title of driver of the year in 2017. In February 2018, Ms. Herring's dedication led to her promotion as a Dispatcher/driver, and shortly after, in March 2018, she advanced to the role of Transportation Manager. Apart from her transportation experience, Ms. Herring brings valuable management experience from the retail industry. She is also a devoted single mother of three fantastic boys.

Ms. Herring plans to go back to college and continue her studies in Psychology.

### Education

- Graduated from McKinley in 2007
- Medical billing and coding diploma

### We are so happy to have you on the team



# BOARD SPOTLIGHT: DR. LATOYA N. DICKENS

DNP, APRN | NURSE FOR 23 YEARS, AND AN NP FOR 17 YEARS.

## ➤➤➤ EDUCATION

BSN from University of Akron 2000. MSN FNP from Malone University 2006. Acute Care post master Kent State University 2014, Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) Walsh University 2019. Family Nurse Practitioner Certification from AANP. Ambulatory Care Certification through ANCC.

## ➤➤➤ CURRENT POSITION

Currently employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner at My Community Health Center (Aultman), Adjunct Faculty at the Aultman College of Nursing and Health Science. Correctional health medical provider for Stark County jail. Wellness Specialists with Remedy Body Bar. Appointed to be the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIRM) coordinator for Stark County Health Department from 2015 to 2017.

**Volunteer:** Member of the Mary Church Terrell Club Stark County Chapter. Stark County Black Nurses Association First Vice President. Queens Village Canton advisory member

## ➤➤➤ IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2018 Women in Health Car Award Lenzy Family Institute.
- 2017 Malone University Graduate School Alumna of the Year Award, 2017 National Black Nurses Under 40 award.
- 2016 Recipient of the Dehoff Emerging Young Philanthropist Award by United Way of Stark County. 20Under40 member of the 2013 class

## ➤➤➤ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Board member for the Prescription Assistance Network (PAN).
- Board member of The ABCD, INC.
- Member of Y-Stark (chair for the 20 under 40 2015 event)





# The ABCD, Inc

A HELPING HAND FOR PEOPLE

## ABCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Lydia Lee, Chairperson
- Tomier Davenport, Vice-Chairperson
- LaToya Dickens-Jones, Secretary
- John Cihon, Treasurer

## ABCD BOARD MEMBERS

Evelyn Byrd  
Mike Farmer  
Natalie Haupt  
Lisa Johnson  
Kent McClelland  
Yvonne Parks  
John Ramos III  
Ray Sales  
Chris Smith  
Jenny Terrell  
Ron Young

## ABCD MANAGEMENT TEAM

Will Dent  
President & CEO  
Homaundre Pender  
Chief Operating Officer  
Darlene Knott  
Chief Financial Officer  
Vivica Williams  
Dir. of Energy Consv. & Office Mgr.  
Ashley Herring  
Transportation Manager  
Katherine Rivera  
Social Media Intern





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(330) 455-6385

SCAN ME



**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW  
MORE ABOUT US?**



**1225 Gross Ave NE, Canton, OH 44705**